NEWS BULLETIN
LUTHERAN WORLD CONVENTION

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION July 24th-26th. Uppsala Sweden

New Name

The name "Lutheran World Convention" was never a good name for those who had to use it in the English language. It gave the impression that this great organization was nothing more than a meeting or assembly. Many new names were suggested but now the official name recommended is "The Lutheran World Federation". We hope it can be properly translated into all languages, so that the name itself will suggest a body of Lutherans who have united in a common purpose to pool our strength so that we can make that united contribution which the Lutheran church alone can give and which the world so much needs.

A Spirit of Unanimity

For three days the members of the Executive Committee discussed the great questions which were before us. Archbishop Erling Eidem presided at all meetings. His keen understanding and able leadership showed the thorough preparation he had made for this significant meeting. Though there were differences of opinion there was a determination for the coming together of minds and in the end all resolutions were adopted unanimously. If this is an index of the future meetings of the Executive Committee and the assembly then we may look with faith and optimism to the coming years.

Those Present

Chairman Archbishop Erling Eidem, Uppsala, Sweden
Bishop Max von Bonsdorff, Borga, Finland
Dr. Alfred Jörgensen, Copenhagen, Denmark
Professor Olaf Moe, Oslo, Norway
Dr. J. A. Aasgaard, Minneapolis, Minn. U.S.A.
Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, New York, U.S.A.
Dr. Ralph H. Long, New York, U.S.A.
Dr. Abdel Ross Wentz, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.
Bishop Hans Meiser, München, Germany.

Arrived too late for the meeting but reviewed and approved minutes - Professor Carl Ihmels, Leipzig, Germany, Professor Ernst Sommerlath, Leipzig, Germany.

Officers Elected

Archbishop Eidem, President
Professor Moe, First Vice-President
Dr. Wentz, Second Vice-President
Dr. Michelfelder, Recording Secretary
Mr. Harry Johansson, Assistant Recording Secretary.

Bishop Marahrens Resigns

Bishop Marahrens, President of the Lutheran World Convention since the Paris Meeting of 1935 sent a letter of resignation. It was accepted and the "Lutherische Rat" of Germany was asked to nominate a successor to Bishop Marahrens on the Executive Committee.

Dr. Hanns Lilje Resigns

Dr. Hanns Lilje of Hannover, Germany, sent a message stating his inability to serve as General Secretary. A warm vote of appreciation was given Dr. Lilje for his untiring service throughout the years and his resignation was accepted with regrets.

Executive Secretary Elected

Dr. S.C. Michelfelder of Geneva, Switzerland, was then elected Executive Secretary. He was also appointed as representative to the Reconstruction Department of the World Council of Churches in Geneva.

"News Bulletin" Now Official Organ

The "News Bulletin" was then made the official organ of the Lutheran World Federation. It was also resolved to enlarge its mailing list so that it would serve a greater number of individuals and church publications.

A Public Message

A Public Message was released which reads as follows :

LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

Message

from the Executive Committee Meeting at Uppsala,

July 24-26, 1946.

I. The Executive Committee of the Lutheran World Federation has been assembled in the cathedral city of Uppsala during the days of July 24 - 26, 1946, to renew and strengthen the ties of fellowship and co-operation among the Lutheran Churches of the world which have been severed through the tragedy of war. From this high place of the

Spirit, the Executive Committee sends its affectionate greetings to the Lutheran Churches of the world, no one of which has escaped suffering under the curse of war.

II. Our generation as no previous one has learned how humankind is torn internally and destroys itself when it turns its back on God. The Scriptures say, "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations and their foolish heart was darkened. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient." (Rom. 1:21 and 28) Our generation has bitterly experienced the truth of these words. We know what it means to belong to a humanity that is under the judgment of God and because of sin is under condemnation and the sentence of death. We ourselves are a part of humankind. We belong to it with every fiber of our being. Its destiny is our destiny. None of us can stand aside as though he were not a part of it. Its sin and need are our sin and need. Before God we confess our corporate guilt and together we stand under His judgment.

III. But, God be praised, we belong not only to the old humanity which is under the tyranny of sin and death. God has given our race a new beginning when He raised up Christ as Lord and as the head of a new creation. In this our day He has granted to us also the grace to be members of Christ and to share in His life. In the midst of the darkness of this world shines His eternal light. In the midst of this world's affliction and suffering we can live as children of the radiant new world in faith, love and hope.

By our faith we receive God's eternal love in Christ, in our love His love glows from us in mutual helpfulness, and in our hope, that is, the hope of the coming glory of God, we are able even to rejoice in our tribulations" (Rom.5:2,3), because these trials too belong to the way over which God wishes to lead us to His glory. This is the blessed hope that we possess through the faith which we have in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Let us then "hold fast to Him who is the Head" (Col.2:19) and "let us hold fast to the confession of our hope that it waver not; for He is faithful that promised: and let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works; not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is, but exhorting one another; and so much the more as ye see the day drawing high." (Hebrews 10:23-25)

IV. We urge all the Lutheran Churches according to the gift of grace which God has given to each to proclaim the Gospel vigorously, in fellowship with one another, to our world which has become so alienated from God and has been submerged in suffering, and in merciful love to undergird one another with spiritual and material aid.

May God direct and lead our Lutheran Churches so that they may become instruments for His glory.

Constitution Recommended to Assembly

A constitution of 13 sections was then adopted to be recommended to the next official assembly of the Federation in 1947.

Constitution

I. Name

The name and title of the body organized under this constitution shall be The Lutheran World Federation.

II. Doctrinal Basis

The Lutheran World Federation acknowledges the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the only source and the infallible norm of all church doctrine and practice, and sees in the Confessions of the Lutheran Church, especially in the Unaltered Augsburg Confession and Luther's Catechism, a pure exposition of the Word of God.

III. Nature and Purposes

1. The Lutheran World Federation shall be a free association of Lutheran Churches. It shall have no power to legislate for the Churches belonging to it or to interfere with their complete autonomy, but shall act as their agent in such matters as they assign to it.

2. The purposes of the Lutheran World Federation are:

(a) To bear united witness before the world to the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the power of God for salvation.

(b) To cultivate unity of faith and confession among the Lutheran churches of the world.

(c) To promote fellowship and cooperation in study among Lutherans.

(d) To achieve a united Lutheran approach to ecumenical Christian movements and to common responsibilities in missions and education.

(e) To support Lutheran groups in need of spiritual or material aid.

3. The Lutheran World Federation may take action on behalf of member churches in such matters as one or more of them may commit to it.

IV. Membership

All Lutheran Churches previously affiliated with the Lutheran World Convention which through their representatives participate in the adoption of this constitution shall continue to be members of the Lutheran World Federation. Other Lutheran churches which declare each their acceptance of this constitution shall be eligible to membership in the Lutheran World Federation. Their acceptance into membership shall be decided by the Lutheran World Federation in assembly, or in the interim, if no fundamental objection is raised, by the Executive Committee.

V. Organization

The Lutheran World Federation shall exercise its functions through the following: (1) The Assembly; (2) The Executive Committee; (3) National Committees; (4) Special Commissions. In all the functions of the Federation both clerical and lay persons shall be eligible to participate.

VI. The Assembly

1. An Assembly of the Federation shall be held every five years at the call of the President. The time and place and program of each Assembly shall be determined by the Executive Committee. Special meetings of the Assembly may be called by the Executive Committee.

2. The number of representatives in the Assembly shall be allocated as follows:

Denmark, 10	Norway, 10
Finland, 10	Sweden, 10
Germany, 40	United States of America, 40
Iceland, 5	other Countries, 5 each.

Within each of these groups detailed allocations shall be made by the National Committee. The representatives shall be chosen by the churches themselves. Whenever in any country there are several Lutheran churches completely independent of one another, each shall be entitled to at least one representative. Whenever Lutheran congregations in union church bodies combine to ask for representation in the Assembly, the Executive Committee may invite them to send representatives to the Assembly in a consultative capacity.

Lutheran associations and organizations designated by the Executive Committee may be invited to send representatives to the Assembly in a consultative capacity in such numbers as the Executive Committee may determine.

3. The Assembly shall be the principal authority in the Federation. It shall elect the President of the Council and the other members of the Executive Committee, receive reports from National Committees, shall appoint Special Commissions, and shall determine the fundamental lines of the Federation's work.

VII. Officers

The President of the Federation shall be chosen by ballot of the Assembly and a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for an election. He shall assume office immediately after the close of the Assembly which has elected him and before the organization of the new Executive Committee. He shall be the chief official representative of the Federation. He shall hold office until the close of the following Assembly, and he shall be ineligible to succeed himself.

Other officers of the Federation shall be chosen by the Executive Committee.

VIII. Executive Committee

1. At each Assembly the Federation shall elect fifteen persons who with the President shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Federation. Membership on the Executive Committee shall be allocated as follows:

Denmark, 1	Norway, 1
Finland, 1	North America, 4
Germany, 4	Sweden, 1

All other countries, a total of 4

In the choice of members from "other countries" an effort shall be made to effect changes at each Assembly in order to make possible a rotation among all of them.

2. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once annually. It shall choose from its own membership two Vice-presidents and a Treasurer as officers of the Federation. The duties of these officers shall be those usually assigned to those offices.

3. The Executive Committee shall conduct the business of the Lutheran World Federation in the interim between Assemblies, shall supervise the appointment of National Committees and receive annual reports from them, shall elect an Executive Secretary and assign him his duties, shall make a full annual report (including complete financial statements) to all member churches, shall appoint all committees and Special Commissions not otherwise provided for, and shall represent the Federation in all external relations.

4. Vacancies in the Executive Committee ad interim shall be filled by that Committee.

5. The expenses of a member of the Executive Committee in attending meetings of that Committee shall be borne by the church to which the member belongs or arranged by the National Committee in which his church is represented.

IX. Executive Secretary

Immediately following the close of each Assembly the Executive Committee shall elect an Executive Secretary who shall devote his full time to this office and who shall serve until the close of the next Assembly. The Executive Secretary shall be responsible to the Executive Committee for his work. It shall be his duty to carry out the decisions of the Assembly and of the Executive Committee under the general supervision of the President. He shall report through the Executive Committee to the Assembly of the Federation.

X. National Committees

The member churches in each country shall select a group of persons who together with the member or members of the Executive Committee in that country shall constitute a National Committee for the Lutheran World Federation. Each National Committee shall be asked to present to the Executive Committee an annual statement concerning the interests of the Lutheran World Federation in its country.

XI. Special Commissions

Special Commissions shall be established under the authority of the Federation and shall be appointed either by the Assembly or by the Executive Committee. It shall be the purpose of these Commissions to discharge designated Functions of the Federation. They shall report annually to the Executive Committee, which shall exercise general supervision over them.

XII. Finance

The Executive Committee shall prepare annually a detailed budget for the Federation, designate the allocation of funds to particular needs, and assign to each National Committee its responsibility for specific portions of the budget. The Treasurer shall be authorized to establish depositories in various countries.

XIII. Amendments

Amendments to this constitution may be made by a two-third vote of those present at any regularly called Assembly, provided notice of intention to amend shall have been given the preceding day. Amendments so made shall become effective one year after their adoption by the Assembly unless objection has been filed with the Executive Committee by churches embracing in aggregate one-third of the constituency of the Council.

Next Assembly, Lund, June 1947

The next meeting of the Lutheran World Federation will be held in Lund, Sweden the latter part of June 1947. Archbishop Eidem, Bishop Edw. Rodhe, Dean Ernst Neuman (both of Lund) and the Executive Secretary were appointed a committee to set final dates for the assembly and make definite plans.

Confessional Representation at the World Council of Churches

After a lengthy and thorough discussion of the petition of American Lutheran churches to the Provisional Committee of the World Council of Churches (see News Bulletin No.3) it was unanimously resolved to support this petition and recommend it for favourable action to the Committee on Arrangements of the World Council of Churches. This resolution was sealed with a solemn prayer that God would bless this decision for the growth of His Kingdom and the progress of Christian faith and the blessing of the World Council of Churches.

Suggested Program for 1947 Assembly

The Lutheran Church in the World Today

I. The Faith by which it lives

a. The Word
b. The Sacraments
c. The Church

II. The Mission it should fulfill

a. Evangelism
b. Foreign Missions
c. Helping one another

III. The Problems it must face

a. Relations to other churches
b. Relations to the state
c. Secularism.

Program and Commissions Committee

A committee to prepare the final program and designate the various commissions was also appointed. The members are Dr. Long, Dr. Jörgensen, Prof. Nygren, Bishop Meiser and the Executive Secretary. It is suggested that the Assembly in Lund shall hold 6 day session not including a Sunday for worship services.

Miscellany

Dr. Long, Dr. Fry, Dr. Wentz and Dr. Michelfelder visited Finland before the Executive Committee Meeting.

Dr. Long, Dr. Fry, Rev. Nelson and Dr. Michelfelder visited Poland after the Meeting. Rev. Nelson remained in Poland to visit the outlying congregations in the Masurian and Silesian districts.

The other three Americans have reserved places to fly from Stockholm to New York on August 7th. Dr. Michelfelder and wife will return to Geneva about October 15th.

The next "News Bulletin" will be prepared by Rev. Nelson and will be mailed in late August.